

HEALTH  
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CLITHEROE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

REPORT of the MEDICAL OFFICER

of HEALTH

Year ended 31st December, 1948

J. H. Fairweather,

M.D., D.P.H., M.R.C.P.,

Medical Officer of Health.



# CLIFFERD RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

## ANNUAL REPORT of the MEDICAL OFFICER of HEALTH for the year ended 31st December, 1948

### STAFF

#### Medical Officer of Health

T. G. Richards, M.D., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.  
resigned September, 1943.

J. H. Fairweather, M.D., D.P.H., M.R.C.P.,  
appointed November, 1948.

#### Chief Sanitary Surveyor and Inspector.

A. Clarkson, M.R.S.I.  
died April, 1948.

H. Barton, M.R.S.I.,  
Appointed September, 1948.

#### Additional Sanitary Inspector.

H. Barton, M.R.S.I.,  
Resigned August, 1946.

H. Cockshutt, M.R.S.I.,  
appointed November, 1948.

### PARTICULARS OF DISTRICT

Area in Acres 32,170.

Population - Census 1931 - 8,644.

Registrar General's estimate of population mid-1948 .... 8,560

Number of inhabited houses - (a) Census 1931 .... 1,569  
(b) End of 1948 according to rate books .... 1,929

Rateable Value .... 254,123. Sum represented by a penny rate 220,942.

### VITAL STATISTICS

There was no unusual or excessive mortality occurred during the year which requires special comment. Apart from a slight epidemic of Scarlet Fever at Whiteacre Lane Camp School, Barrow, there were no cases of sickness or invalidity worthy of special note. There do not appear to be any conditions of occupation or environment which have had a prejudicial effect on health.

### BIRTHS AND DEATHS

<u>BIRTHS:</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Live Births. { Legitimate	99	42	57
{ Illegitimate	3	1	2
{ Total	102	43	59



Birth-rate per 1,000 estimated population mid-1948 .... 11.9.

For the whole of England and Wales the live Birth Rate per 1,000 population was 17.9.

For the whole of England and Wales the still Birth Rate was 0.42.

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
<u>Still Births:</u>	3	2	1
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births ....	....	....	28.

Compared with 1947 the birth rate per 1,000 estimated population shows a decrease from 14.3 to 11.9, whilst the mean of the 5 years 1943-1947 was 11.3.

<u>Deaths:</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
	88	45	43

Death-rate per 1,000 estimated population .... 10.2.

Compared with 1947 the death rate shows an increase from 8.9 to 10.2, whilst the mean of the 5 years 1943-1947 was 8.5.

It is pleasing to be able to report that there were no deaths from puerperal causes, postabortive sepsis, or other maternal causes.

Deaths of infants under one year of age:-

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Legitimate	2	1	1
Illegitimate	-	-	-
Total	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>

Death rate of infants under one year per 1,000 live births .... 19.

The comparative figure for 1947 was 24, whilst the mean of the 5 years 1943-1947 was 26.

For the whole of England and Wales the death rate per 1,000 population was 10.8.

#### VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF CLITHEROE

	<u>Per 1,000 of estimated population</u>				<u>Maternal Mortality Rate</u>		Rate of deaths under one year per 1,000 still births
	Live Birth Rate	Crude Death Rate	Death Rate from T.B. and respiratory system	Death Rate from Cancer	Per 1,000 live Births	Per 1,000 total (live and still births)	
	(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)	(g)
Mean of 5 years, 1943-1947	12.5	8.9	0.31	1.56	3.75	3.66	18
Year 1947	14.3	8.9	0.57	1.26	-	-	24
Year 1948	11.9	10.2	0.11	1.86	-	-	19



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	(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)	(g)
Increase or decrease in 1948 on 5 years average 1943-1947	-0.6	+1.3	-0.20	+0.30	-3.75	-3.66	+1
Previous Year	-2.4	+1.3	-0.46	+0.60	-	-	-5

The total number of deaths (88) may be classified as follows:-

Cause of Death	Number of Deaths	
	M.	F.
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	-	1
Other forms of Tuberculosis	1	1
Typhoid and parat. fevers	-	-
Cerebro-spinal fever	-	-
Scarlet Fever	-	-
Whooping Cough	-	-
Diphtheria	-	-
Syphilitic Diseases	-	-
Influenza	-	-
Measles	-	-
Ac. polio-myel. & polio-enceph.	-	-
Ac. inf. enceph.	-	-
Cancer of buc. cav. & oesoph (M) uterus (F)	2	-
Cancer of stomach and duodenum	2	1
Cancer of breast	-	1
Cancer of all other sites	5	5
Diabetes	-	-
Intra-cranial vascular lesions	6	2
Heart diseases	16	21
Other dis. of circ. system	2	-
Bronchitis	-	1
Pneumonia	1	2
Other resp. dis.	-	-
Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	-	-
Diarrhoea under 2 years	-	-
Appendicitis	-	-





Cause of death	Number of deaths	
	M.	F.
Other digv. diseases	3	1
Nephritis	-	2
Puer. and post-abortion. sepsis.	-	-
Other maternal causes	-	-
Premature birth	-	-
Gen. mal. birth inj. infant. dis.	1	-
Suicide	-	1
Road traffic acc.	-	-
Other violent causes	2	-
All other causes	4	4
Total	45	43

#### INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The following table shows the incidence in age groups of infectious diseases occurring during the year. Eighteen cases of Scarlet Fever (15 of which occurred at Whiteacre Lane Camp School) and one case of Erysipelas were removed to Isolation Hospital.

One case of Diphtheria occurred at Calderstones Institution, a male age 20.

Hospital facilities for ordinary infectious diseases were available by agreement with the Corporation of Darwen at their Isolation Hospital at Bull Hill, Darwen. For smallpox cases an arrangement existed with the Blackburn Corporation for isolation should this be necessary.

Disinfection is carried out by means of fumigation when required. Formalin is used and only terminal disinfection is done by the Council. An arrangement exists with Clitheroe Corporation by which means steam disinfection of bedding etc. can be effected. There is no suitable vehicle for the transport of infected bedding to the steam disinfectors.

Thirty-two premises were disinfected during the year.

Diphtheria anti-toxin was available to medical practitioners by the Council on request.

During the year 18 specimens were submitted for examination, 17 being in relation to diphtheria, and 1 Sputum.



# NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE ACT, 1948

The above came into force on July 5th, 1948 and with it the appropriate changes in the various services covered by the Act were made.

The Ambulance Service, for example, was provided by the Clitheroe Rural District Council up to July 5th, 1948 and by the Lancashire County Council thereafter. They continued to use the ambulances and car for sitting cases provided by Messrs Tomlinsons (Clitheroe) Ltd.

The contracts with various hospitals for cases of infectious diseases ceased to be the responsibility of the Clitheroe Rural District Council on the same date.

All the local General Medical Practitioners joined the Practitioner Service and at the end of the year the scheme appeared to be working as smoothly as could be expected after a period of six months.

## TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED

Diseases	Total cases at all ages	Age Period- Years										Total Deaths	Total cases removed to Hospital from the District	Deaths in hospital of persons belonging to the District
		under 1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65 & over		
Scarlet Fever	23	1	-	-	-	-	5	15	2	-	-	-	18	-
Diphtheria	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Measles	25	3	-	-	4	-	11	6	-	1	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	7	3	-	-	3	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Acute Pneumonia	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-
Purpurcal Pyrexia	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Erysipelas	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	1	1	1
Totals	63	7	-	-	7	-	17	21	4	2	-	5	19	1

## TUBERCULOSIS

The total number of cases notified in the year was 10 compared with 13 in 1947.

Eight of these cases were pulmonary and 2 non-pulmonary.

One death from Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System and 2 from other forms of Tuberculosis.

The register at December 31st, 1948 stands thus:-

Pulmonary	Total	Non-Pulmonary	Total	Total Pulmonary and Non-Pulmonary		Total M. & F.
M. F.		M. F.		M.	F.	
15 10	25	4 10	14	19	20	39



## SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.

### WATER SUPPLIES.

The water supply throughout the district is provided chiefly by mains either in public or private ownership. The sources of supply are mostly from moorland springs. Water to the Council's mains is derived from Blackburn Corporation for Hurst Green and Woodfields, from Clitheroe Corporation for portions of Pendleton, Barrow, and to supplement the Council's own supply at Whalley and from the Accrington District Gas and Water Board for the Cock Bridge and Portfield areas of Whalley, Downham, Pendleton, Twiston and Little Mitton and the greater portion of Barrow are supplied from sources and mains in private ownership.

Chatburn, Worston, Chipping and Thornley-with-Wheatley are supplied from the Council's mains which receive water in bulk from springs in private ownership.

The quality of the water supplied to the district is generally satisfactory. The water supply at Whalley which is regarded as being of doubtful bacteriological quality has been safeguarded in this respect by the installation of a chlorination plant.

None is liable to plumbo-solvent action.

As regards quantity there has been no shortage of water to the properties supplied. Some areas of the district are in need of an increased supply, particularly for agricultural requirements. Many farms rely on independent supplies which are known to be inadequate.

Appended is a table showing particulars of the number of dwelling houses and the population supplied:-



parish	Total population 1939	Population	Number of houses with constant water supply from G.P.D.C. mains	Number of houses with piped constant water supply	In houses which could be provided with a piped supply at reasonable cost.	Number of houses for which a piped supply is not practicable	Number of houses with piped water supply from other approved sources.
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.
Airton, Beggery and Chad 122.	288	921	174	13	10	3	101
Bowland-with-Leagram	38	123	5	8	1	7	25
Chatburn	346	1107	345	-	-	-	1
Chipping	250	800	175	28	9	19	47
Downham	61	195	-	1	-	1	60
Little Mitton	11	35	11	-	-	-	-
Mearley	8	26	-	-	-	-	8
Pendleton	78	249	28	-	-	-	50
Thoraleley-with-Wheatley	76	243	20	15	1	14	41
Twisdon	22	70	-	2	1	1	20
Whalley	546	1747	538	-	-	-	8
Wiswell	183	585	74	-	-	-	109
Worston	32	102	21	-	-	-	11
Calderstones M.I.	-	2357	-	-	-	-	-
Total	1939	8560	1391	67	22	44	481





Samples from 6 parish supplies were submitted for Chemical and 6 for Bacteriological examination. Bacteriological examination showed 5 satisfactory and 1 unsatisfactory, but Chemical data showed there had been no gross pollution. Chemical examination showed 6 to be satisfactory.

9 samples of proposed private supplies to outlying properties were submitted for examination with the following results:-

1. Satisfactory 7.
2. Within satisfactory limit for rural supply 2.

The Council purchased the ex W.D. main supplying Moreton Hall and completed an agreement with Accrington District Gas and Water Board for the bulk purchase of water to supply Cock Bridge Cottages, Moreton Hall and the dwelling houses at Portfield Bar. A new 3" water main was laid from Moreton Hall Lodge, by contract, to the Portfield Bar area. All individual houses have been connected to the new main with satisfactory results. This provides a supply to ten houses and to Moreton Hall.

#### Mitton Road, Whalley.

Owing to very poor pressure to dwelling houses in the Calderstones area, a new 4" Asbestos main was laid to replace the old 2" main from Brookes Lane to the junction of Broad Lane, a distance of 530 yards. The new main appears to have remedied the previous lack of pressure.

#### SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE.

The existing sewage disposal works at

#### Chatburn.

These works were extended by the addition of one settling tank and slight adjustments made to accommodate the new and increased effluent from the Downham area.

A new main sewer was connected from Ribble Lane, Housing Site was completed and connected direct to the Disposal Works.

#### Chipping.

Some progress was made during the year with the construction of the Disposal Works and the laying of the main sewers.

#### Downham.

The laying of the main sewer from the village to the connection to the existing sewers at Chatburn was completed.

All houses and premises in the village area were converted from pail closets and middens to Water Closets and connected to the new sewer. The whole of the connections were carried out during the year.

#### Hurst Green and Stonyhurst.

The bulk of the work on the sewers and Disposal Works was completed towards the end of the year, it is hoped that the existing water closets now connected to septic tanks will be made to the sewer early in the new year and that the conversion of pail closets to water closets will proceed as quickly as possible.

#### Whalley/Calderstones.

These works are constantly overloaded and working to full capacity in normal dry times.

Reports of bad samples of effluent are continuously being received. The time is fast approaching when serious consideration be given to the extension and modernisation of the present works.



#### Wiswell/Barrow.

These works have continued to function satisfactorily without any adverse samples being reported.

#### Pendleton, Worston.

These villages are not yet provided with public sewers. Both schemes have been prepared.

In the following townships, Chaigley, Little Bowland, Little Mitton, Nearley, Thornley and Twiston, it is impracticable to provide public sewers and the necessary sewage disposal works owing to the scattered properties.

#### CLOSET ACCOMMODATION AT END OF 1948.

Privies	212.
Pail Closets	451.
No. of houses on water carriage system	1276.
No. of fresh water closets	978.
No. of waste water closets	297.
No. of privies converted to fresh water closets	26.
No. of pail closets converted to fresh water closets	32.
No. of waste water closets converted to fresh water closets	1.
No. of privies converted to pail closets	6.

#### REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL.

The greater portion of the District is scavenged by a system of direct labour and the hiring of two vehicles and drivers under contract to the Council. Hurst Green, Woodfields and Stonyhurst are now included in the area covered by direct labour.

The system provides for the emptying of domestic and trade refuse every two weeks and for the emptying of pails every week, this schedule being maintained as regular as possible though often owing to sickness and holidays the bins have been allowed a three week period before emptying, but every endeavour is made to empty the pails every week.

Salvage is collected along with the refuse and bailed and disposed of at regular intervals.

The refuse is disposed of by the tipping at Tips under the Council's control situated at Chatburn, Pendleton, Whalley, Hurst Green and Chipping.

Very few ashpits are now outstanding and efforts have been made to eradicate all existing ashpits throughout the District.

#### SANITARY INSPECTIONS DURING 1948.

No. of premises visited.....	627.
Defects or nuisances discovered....	79.
No. abated....	67.
No. of notices served.....	informal-51. statutory-10.
Legal proceedings.....	none.

#### HOUSING.

No. of new houses erected during year.	
(i) By the local authority.....	24.
(ii) By other local authorities.....	Nil.
(iii) By other bodies or persons.....	6.



Inspection of dwellings during year.	
(1)(a) Total number of houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts).....	340
(b) No. of inspections made for the purpose.....	484
(2)(a) No. of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932.....	31.
(b) No. of inspections made for the purpose.....	35.
(3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation.....	-
(4) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation.	79.
2. Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices:-	
Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the local authority or their officers.....	67.
3. Action under statutory powers during the year:-	
(a) Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:	
(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs.....	-
(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:-	
(a) By owners.....	-
(b) By local authority in default of owners.....	-
(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:-	
(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied.....	3.
(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:-	
(a) By owners.....	3.
(b) By local authority in default of owners.....	-
(c) Proceedings under section 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:-	
(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made.....	-
(2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders.....	-
(d) Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:-	
(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made.....	-
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit.....	-

The housing conditions in the District are fairly good judged by Rural standards. Considerable improvements have been carried out to property in the area rectifying some of the disrepair occurring during the war years. The relaxing of the Control of Civil Building 'free limits' from £10 to £100 in any one year proved of great assistance.

The operation of the Rent Restriction Acts has a detrimental influence on the condition of tenanted houses by the prohibition of rent increases for repairs. The continued high cost of building repairs compares unfavourably with the stabilised rents of houses. Little progress in the survey of houses as recommended in the Hobhouse Report was accomplished during the year due to changes in and shortage of staff.

With regard to the provision of new houses the Council were allotted a further allocation during the year of 18 traditional houses, Chatburn was allocated 12 houses and Hurst Green a further 6 houses. The construction of two Airey houses at Chatburn commenced during the year; these being incomplete at the end of the year. very slow progress having been made to the slow delivery of the Ministry of Health's supplied components.

Work on the Chipping Housing Site continued; at the end of the year 18 houses were occupied and the remaining 14 were in an advanced stage of construction.



Construction of the first six houses at Hurst Green commenced in January and the six houses were occupied at the end of the year. The six houses built by private enterprise for Stonyhurst College were occupied at the end of the year.

### INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

#### Milk Supplies.

The administration of the Milk and Dairies Acts, Orders, and Regulations depends entirely on the frequent and regular inspection of cowsheds and dairies which was maintained during the year. The Lancashire County Council's Sanitary Officers were accompanied on their visits to Tuberculin Tested and Accredited Farms. The number of milking machines in operation continues to increase and attention is directed towards the proper cleansing of the various parts of the equipment.

Number of new and converted shippens and dairies. 9.

During the year every effort has been made to encourage producers to consider the advantages in the production of Designated Milks and the following licences have been issued by the Lancashire County Council.

Accredited.....	10.	Tuberculin Tested.....	18.
No. of Dairy Farms.....	228.		
No. of Cowkeepers.....	368.		
No. of Dairymen other than Cowkeepers.....	3.		
No. of farms producing T.T. Milk.....	18.		
No. of farms producing Accredited Milk.....	10.		
No. of Licensed Pasteurising Plants.....	1.		
No. of Licences issued for Bottling T.T. Milk.....	1.		
No. of Licences issued for Bottling T.T. Pasteurised Milk...	1.		

#### Sampling of Milk.

For the presence of	No. of samples submitted.....	17.
Tubercle Bacillus.	No. satisfactory.....	17.

Bacteriological examination.	No. of samples submitted.....	29.
	No. satisfactory.....	22.
	No. unsatisfactory.....	7.

### SLAUGHTERHOUSES.

A licence for the slaughter of animals was renewed to the Co-operative Wholesale Society of Manchester for their premises at Shaw House Farm, Whalley. These premises are under the Ministry of Food and used for storage only.

### INSPECTION OF MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

The slaughter of animals for human consumption and the inspection of carcasses continues under the control of the Ministry of Food in the Borough of Clitheroe.

Inspections of Meat and Shops and Vans in your District have been made, no diseased or unsound meat was found.

Whenever practicable pigs slaughtered for home consumption have been inspected for the protection of the consumer. During the year 81 pigs were slaughtered for home consumption, 29 of this number were inspected; no diseased or unsound carcasses were found.





### Ice Cream.

8 premises are Registered for the Manufacture and Sale of Ice Cream and 4 premises for Sale and Storage only. All were frequently visited during the summer months.

Six samples were submitted for examination and reported upon as follows:-

Grade I .....	5.
Grade II.....	1.
Grade III.....	-.
Grade IV.....	-.

The results of the samples were communicated to the respective manufacturers.

### FACTORIES ACT 1937.

The Factories in the District are in fairly good condition.

61 Factories are in operation in the District 25 of which were inspected. Five defects were discovered and remedied without recourse to Statutory Action.

### RODENT CONTROL.

A full time Rodent Operative is employed by the Council. Properties throughout the Area are surveyed regularly and treated as necessary. The Council has provided a free service for dwelling houses. Business premises are charged for treatments carried out.

All Public Sewers are treated twice yearly in accordance with the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries' instructions and under their supervision for which work the Ministry grant is received. Tips and sewage disposal works are frequently treated.

